



The Daily Whip

Wednesday, January 8, 2003 | Daily Floor News from the Democratic Whip

HOUSE MEETS AT....

10:00 a.m. for legislative business

LAST VOTE PREDICTED...

8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Number of "One Minutes" Today: 10 per side

IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP HAS INFORMED DEMOCRATS THAT THE TIME ON 15-MINUTE RECORDED VOTES WILL NOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND 15 MINUTES.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

- ◆ **Unemployment Insurance Benefits Extension Act (S. 23) Subject to a Rule.** Today, the House will consider legislation to provide 13 additional weeks of federally funded benefits to jobless workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits. Jobless workers in all states who exhaust their 26 weeks of regular benefits between now and the end of May (five months) would be entitled to the additional 13 weeks of benefits. In high unemployment states, (currently only three states -- Alaska, Oregon and Washington) jobless workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular benefits would be eligible for 26 additional weeks of benefits. The extension is retroactive to December 28th. Those who had their benefits cut off on that date would receive the remainder of their 13 weeks. Those who exhausted both their 26 weeks of regular benefits and 13 weeks of extended benefits last year do not receive any additional benefits. **The Republican Leadership has reported a closed rule for the bill denying Democrats the opportunity to offer any amendments to the bill, such as the Rangel-Cardin unemployment insurance bill which is a part of the Democrats stimulus package. Therefore, Democrats are urged to oppose the previous question on the rule in order to allow the consideration of Democratic amendments. All Members are urged to VOTE NO on the Previous Question to change the unfair Republican rule.**
- ◆ **Rule Providing for Consideration of TWO Continuing Resolutions (H.J. Res. 1 and H.J. Res. 2).** Next, the House will consider another **closed rule**, that provides for the consideration of **TWO Continuing Resolutions (H.J. Res. 1 and H.J. Res. 2)**. The rule provides for **1 hour of debate for EACH** continuing resolution; waives all points of order against consideration of EACH Continuing resolution; and provides **one motion to recommit for each Continuing Resolution**. Again, the Republican Leadership has denied Democrats the ability to offer amendments to these bills. Appropriations Committee Ranking Member David Obey had intended to offer an amendment that would have added funds the President vetoed that were part of the supplemental appropriations bill enacted last year. These funds were for homeland security, veterans health care, and election reform, among many important items. In addition, because of the Rules package the House adopted yesterday, and because this rule does not provide the necessary waivers, a motion to recommit to try to add these important funds would not be in order. Therefore, Democratic Members are urged to VOTE NO on the Previous Question and VOTE NO on the unfair Republican rule. MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT ADDITIONAL PROCEDURAL VOTES MAY OCCUR TO PROTEST THIS UNFAIR RULE.

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STENY HOYER
DEMOCRATIC WHIP

DEMOCRATICWHIP.HOUSE.GOV
(202) 225-3130

- ◆ **SUSPENSION BILLS.** The House is scheduled to consider **FOUR Suspension bills**. Suspension bills are debateable for 40 minutes each, may not be amended, and require two-thirds majority for passage.
 - 1) H.R. _____ - Providing Cost of Living Adjustments for FY 2003 to Members of the Federal Judiciary.
 - 2) H.R. 11 - Reauthorizing the FEMA Flood Insurance Program.
 - 3) H.Res. 10 - Congratulating the Ohio State University Buckeyes Football Team.
 - 4) H.Res. 12 - Congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2002 NCAA Division II Football National Championship.
- ◆ **Continuing Resolution through January 31st (H.J. Res. 1):** Next, the House will consider the 1st Continuing Resolution to provide temporary funding for the federal government through Friday, January 31st (except functions funded under the Defense and Military Construction Appropriations bills which have already been enacted) under the fiscal year 2002 terms and conditions and funding rates. In addition, it extends the authorities necessary to make key entitlement payments including Food Stamps Programs, Medicaid Grants to States and Veterans Entitlements.
- ◆ **Continuing Resolution through January 31st (H.J. Res. 2):** Next, the House will consider the 2nd Continuing Resolution, which is exactly the same as H.J. Res. 1 except for one additional provision which amends the FY03 Defense Appropriations Act to include an additional \$2.5 billion in reprogramming authority to the Secretary of Defense to meet ongoing requirement of the War on Terrorism.

At the conclusion of today's business the House WILL NOT be in session again until Monday, January 27th with votes after 6:30 p.m.

Daily Quote:

"[T]he president and most of his fellow Republican officeholders continue to behave as though balancing the books just isn't part of their job description."

Washington Post editorial today

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